



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF BERNE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT ADDENDUM #1: REALIGNMENT OF NORTH INTERCEPTOR SRF # 06 57 01 01

DATE: March 3, 2009

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: April 3, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF Clean Water Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 4-4-11, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the deadline date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

Max Henschen
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8623

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	City of Berne PER Addendum #1: North Interceptor Realignment 158 West Franklin Street Berne, IN. 46711
SRF Project Number:	WW 06 57 01 01
Authorized Representative:	John F. Minch Mayor

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Berne is located in Adams County. The environmental review of the original project was conducted on behalf of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program approved that project on July 10, 2007 and closed its SRF loan on the same day. The city later revised the route of the interceptor and has already installed it in Section 33, Township 26N, Range 14E in the Berne USGS quadrangle. This environmental assessment addresses that realigned and installed sewer; see Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The North Interceptor project was designed to comply with an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Agreed Order to correct overflows in the combined sewer system. The original alignment was changed to address the concerns of several industrial park business owners who objected to the SRF-approved sewer alignment, saying it would disturb the business owners' operations and impact their businesses. The original design required that the interceptor sewer be installed in the West Street and Parr Road rights-of-way, which would severely impact the existing road width, delivery truck traffic and other utilities. Originally, that design was developed to save project costs. However, the city has revised and installed the interceptor alignment to satisfy the industrial park business owners.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will install a realigned portion of the North Interceptor. The realignment moves the interceptor sewer from the street right-of-way on West Street and Parr Road to a construction easement on abandoned CTS property.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Berne will use its original construction contingency of \$220,000 to fund this realignment. No new funding will be required to construct the realignment.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

No Action: The no-action alternative for the interceptor sewer alignment modification was to leave the sewer in its original designed location, which would have caused hardship to the local industrial park business owners. Therefore, this alternative was rejected.

The selected alternative is to modify the sewer route.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Undisturbed/Disturbed Land: Since the realigned route crossed farmland, an archaeological reconnaissance level survey was performed on the realigned route; the survey did not find archaeological sites.

Structural Resources (Figure 2): The proposed project will not affect historic sites. Audible, atmospheric or visual effects of the project construction and operation will be temporary. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

Wetlands and Surface Water: The proposed project will not adversely affect any surface waters or wetlands.

100-Year Floodplain: The proposed project will not occur in the 100-year floodplain.

Groundwater: The proposed project will not negatively affect a sole source aquifer or other groundwater resources.

Plants and Animals: The proposed project will not affect endangered plants or animals.

Prime Farmland: The project will not affect prime/unique farmland.

Air Quality: Air quality will be temporarily impacted by construction activities, including vehicle exhaust and dust.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The proposed project will neither create nor destroy open space and recreational opportunities.

Lake Michigan Coastal Management Zone and National Natural Landmarks: The project is not located in the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone. The proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The city's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The City of Berne will ensure, through local zoning laws or other means, that future development, as well as future collection system or treatment works projects connecting to SRF funded facilities, will not impact archaeological/historical/structural resources, wetlands, or other sensitive environmental resources. Berne will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

This document serves as the first notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the IDNR Environmental Unit.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in correspondence dated October 29, 2008, stated that the realigned route *will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, in correspondence dated December 5, 2008, stated: *Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic structures will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project. In terms of archaeology, we concur with the archaeological report that no currently known archaeological resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been recorded within the proposed change in project area. No further archaeological investigations appear necessary provided that the portions of the proposed project area not subjected to archaeological survey remain within areas disturbed by previous construction. If any archaeological artifacts, features, or human remains are uncovered during construction, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-17 & 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days.*

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The city's PER states: *Mitigation measures to lessen siltation and erosion cited in comment letters about the Project from the Adams County Soil Conservation Service and from the Soil Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture will be implemented. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.*

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed Public Hearing was held on September 26, 2006 at 7:00pm in the Berne City Hall. There were no objections to the project at the public hearing. There were no adverse written comments received by the city during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.

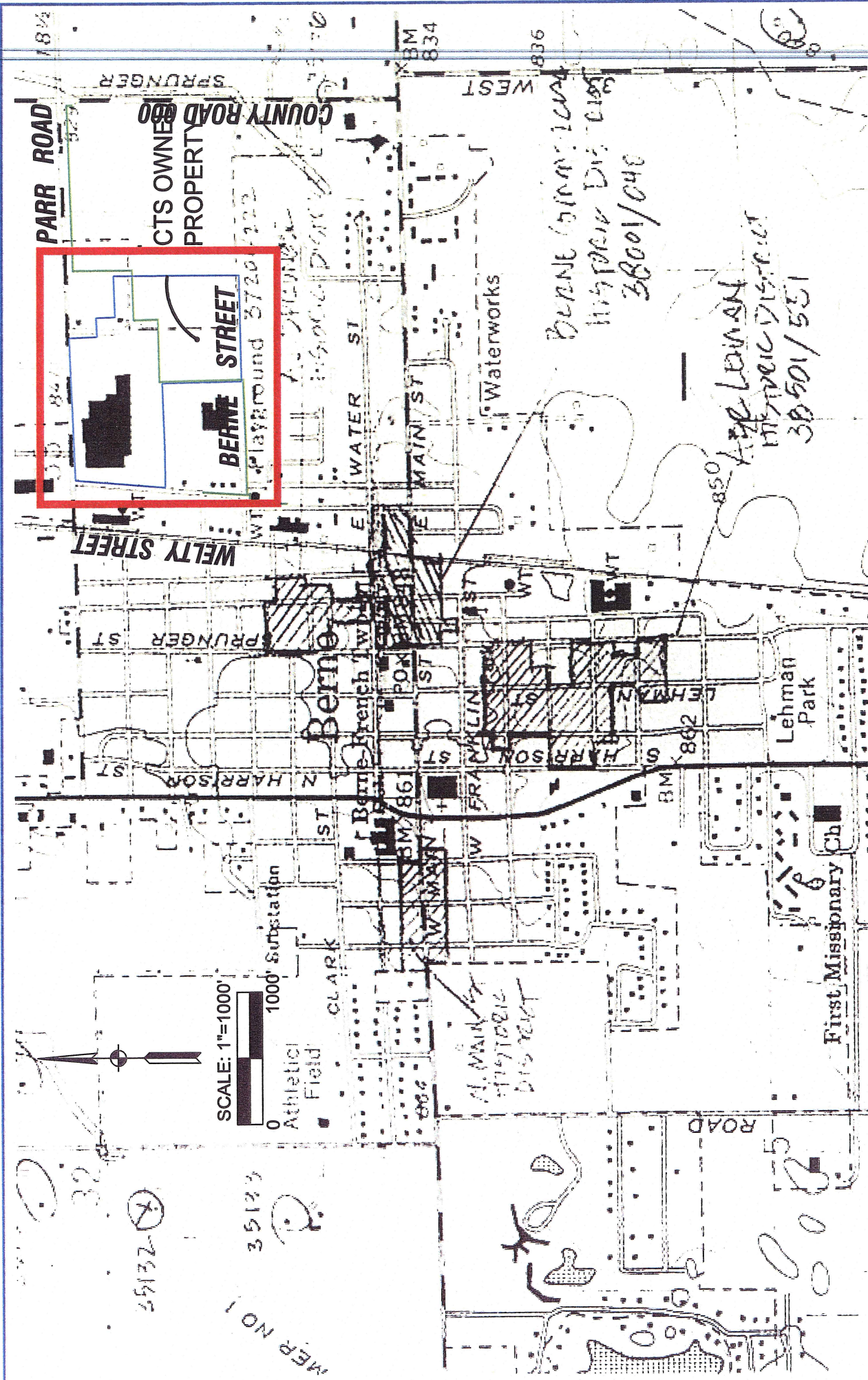


LEGEND

- PROPOSED SANITARY INTERCEPTOR
- - - EXISTING CTS PROPERTY LINES

COMMONWEALTH

CITY OF BERNE, INDIANA
SANITARY SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT
FIGURE No.1
ROUTE DESCRIPTION
CTS OWNED BOUNDARY (BOUNDARY NOT EXACT)



CITY OF BERNE, INDIANA
 SANITARY SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT
 FIGURE No.2
 HISTORICAL SITE PLAN

COMMONWEALTH

Revised 11/5/08